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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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New GDR Regulations Trouble Western Missions in Berlin

Citizens of "non-Socialist" countries who reside in East Germany have complained of the difficulties for them as a result of the new visa requirement for travel to West Berlin.

Many of these persons, and according to the US Mission they number "many thousands," are pensioners who come to West Berlin to pick up small checks from their country's representatives. Prior to the visa regulation these people traveled to the city whenever they wished, using only their passport as documentation. Now they must apply for a visa which takes from 10 to 14 days and costs 15 West Marks.

The British Mission has considered, among other things, sending a representative to East Berlin from time to time to disburse the pension checks in order to relieve its subjects of the new travel burden. The Austrian and Swedish

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Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

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Consulates general also are concerned by the restrictions and reportedly are considering steps to try to persuade the East Germans to relax the new controls.

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Polish Party Prepares for Plenum

The party's 80 member committee for the preparation of the fifth congress met in Warsaw on 24 June. The committee, created earlier this year, accepted the draft congress theses which will be presented to the central committee "at the next plenum." Party boss Gomulka wound up the meeting with a speech. No further details have been publicized.

This is further evidence that the forthcoming plenum, slated to set a definite date for the congress later this year, and probably to announce some party personnel changes, is imminent. Like previous reports, however, it fails to make clear whether the plenum will be held before the end of this month as required by party statutes, or whether it will be delayed.

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Gomulka reportedly is seeking a delay to marshal his forces for a showdown with his hardline opponents at the plenum.

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New Groups in the Czechoslovak National Front

The National Front is proceeding with expansion plans. Negotiations are now underway with the Club of Committee Nonparty People, which is seeking recognition as a separate socio-political group and wishes to join the front. According to Frantisek Kriegel, the front's new chairman, the 231 Club (made up of former political prisoners) will not be granted official recognition, and "will lose its justification /for existence/ when the rehabilitation law comes into effect." Kriegel looks for the trade unions council to become one of the front's principal members. Meanwhile, the front is rewriting its statute to accomodate the changes. Kriegel expects it to be ready in a few weeks.

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Regime Destruction of Old Landmark Incites Leipzigers

There were red faces all around when a picture of the demolished Leipzig University church bearing the slogan "We Demand Reconstruction" was lowered onto the stage at the

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Third International Bach Competition on 20 June. The incident.

occurred at the moment the audience was applauding the award winners. The applause reportedly increased during the incident and the ceremony was delayed several minutes before the banner could be pulled down. Film and still pictures of the incident were confiscated from East German journalists and the party's press office held immediate talks with West German and foreign newsmen at the scene.

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Yugoslav Miners Force Rail Line's Reopening

Intermittent labor unrest in Yugoslavia continued this month, when Kocevje miners struck in protest against the closure of the Grosuplje-Kocevje rail line by the Slovenian Executive Council. They successfully prevented the line from being discontinued. The line, considered vital by the miners for their work, has been losing money for several years--last year's deficit reached 7.6 million new dinars (\$608,000).

The line will remain open as long as the mine is in operation, under an agreement reached by representatives of the Slovene Executive Council, Trade Unions, the Kocevje Commune and the miners. One third of the loss incurred through its operation will be covered by the Slovene Executive Council and the rest by the railways and communes concerned. Under pressure Yugoslav authorities apparently are still willing to underwrite unprofitable enterprises even though this practice contradicts the economic reform.

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Poles Mending Fences with North Korea

The Poles are going out of their way to assure the North Koreans in a conspicuous manner of their support in the wake of likely uncomfortable exchanges over North Korea's Pueblo exhibit at the Poznan Fair. The US closed its exhibit at the fair five days before it was officially over on 23 June because the North Koreans failed to heed Polish representations to have the propaganda display removed.

On 21 June the North Korean ambassador in Warsaw gave a widely publicized and bristling anti-US press conference. On 25 June the main party daily expressed Poland's solidarity

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with North Korea, and condemned alleged US provocations including the Pueblo incident. Finally, the North Korean military attache in Warsaw held an anti-US film showing on 24 June attended by Polish military officers and unnamed representatives from the Foreign Ministry. All of this activity was ostensibly tied to the onset of North Korea's month of struggle for the withdrawal of US troops from South Korea.

During the Polish-US exchanges over the North Korean display at the Poznan Fair, the Poles made clear that US protests were "correct," and made efforts at the highest Foreign Ministry levels to budge the adamant North Koreans.

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